

CHARLEMONT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting: October 15, 2010, 9:00 a.m. Town Hall

Present: Norma Lynch, Richard Filoramo, Ted Willard, Amy Wales, Camille White; Julia White, Ivy Palmer, Carla Clark, Hawlemont School Committee; Charles Stetson, Hawlemont School Committee and Hawley Finance Committee; Richard Desmarais, Darwin Clark, Hawley Selectmen; Winston Healy, Charlemont Selectman

1. New Business

The Charlemont Finance Committee extended invitations to members of the Hawlemont Regional School Committee, the school administration, Hawley and Charlemont Selectmen and Hawley Finance Committee for the purpose of preliminary budget discussions and school enrollment trends.

J. White, Chairman of the Hawlemont School Committee, distributed data sheets of staff and student enrollment as well as assessment information. She gave a brief discussion of said data. Attendees asked questions and discussion centered on the complexities and variables relating to a sustainable budget for the Towns involved. It was generally agreed unfunded mandates such as busing reimbursement, school choice, special education and minimum contribution severely impact the school budgetary process.

R. Filoramo asked if the School Committee would prepare figures as to whether or not eliminating use of the leased building (old high school building) would result in savings. C. Stetson agreed to ask the school administration to prepare such information.

The School Committee, by their presentation and participation, indicated they are aware of budget constraints for the Towns while also keeping in mind their duty to provide the best education possible for students.

J. White extended an invitation for all interested to attend upcoming Hawlemont School Committee budget deliberations and will forward information as to specific times and dates.

2. Minutes of September 24, 2010 were approved and signed.

3. Other -- A bill for reimbursement for meeting refreshments was approved and signed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Camille C. White, Secretary

(This document is to be considered a draft until approved and signed by the Finance Committee.)